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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Are We Europeans? - Hurriyet  
Turkish Campaign on "Armenian Genocide" Issue - Hurriyet  
FM Gul Urges Palestine to Start Peace Talks with Israel -  
Sabah  
US Officials Apologize for Treatment of Turkish Police Chief  
in US - Milliyet  
Turmoil Continues in CHP - Milliyet  
"Washington Post: "Egypt Conducted Nuclear Experiments in  
Turkey" - Milliyet  
World Races to Help Tsunami Victims - Vatan  
Palestinians Urge Active Turkish Role in Middle East Peace -  
Turkiye  
Israel to Allow Investment in `TRNC - Turkiye  
US Prepares to Implement More Sanctions Against Syria -  
Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

Looking for Change in CHP - Cumhuriyet  
US Prepares Operation in Mosul - Cumhuriyet  
Baykal May Not Win CHP Leadership This Time - Radikal  
Erdogan: No Cabinet Revision For Now - Radikal  
Arinc: Turkey Not Ready for Presidential System - Yeni Safak  
FM Gul: Turkey Supports Palestinian Cause - Yeni Safak  
First Turkish Minister in Palestinian Authority - Zaman

BRIEFING

FM Gul's Visit to Middle East: "Cumhuriyet" reports that during his address to the Palestinian Parliament, Turkish Foreign Minister Gul stressed Turkish support for the Palestinian cause. Gul was the first foreign minister to address the Palestinian Parliament. Gul urged the new Palestinian administration to carry out reforms aimed at greater democratization, the elimination of corruption, and greater transparency. The FM stressed the need for the two sides to return to negotiations. 'We saw that Israel is ready to do everything it can for peace,' Gul said, 'but they want the suicide bombings to end.' Gul said that PM Erdogan would visit the region in the near future. He pledged that Turkey would support international efforts in Gaza following an Israeli withdrawl. Gul announced that the Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Development (TIKA) will open an office in Jerusalem or Ramallah soon in order to examine possibilities for cooperation with the Palestinian Authority. "Milliyet" reports that the Israeli government announced the lifting of a ban that had prevented Israeli companies from investing in Northern Cyprus. Turkey called on Israeli businessmen to make efforts to begin direct flights from Israel to the `TRNC.'

General Jones in Ankara: Papers report that NATO Supreme Allied Commander, General James Jones, arrives in Ankara today as the guest of the Turkish General Staff. Gen. Jones' talks are expected to focus on Afghanistan and NATO training of Iraqi security forces.

Possible US Sanctions Against Syria: "Milliyet" and "Aksam" report that as the first diplomatic step in 2005, the Bush Administration has strongly warned Syria to stop sheltering former members of the Iraqi Baathist administration. Washington gave this message to Syria through Deputy Secretary Armitage and warned that certain sanctions would be implemented against Syria in the event the problem continues. The new sanctions would be aimed at isolating the Syrian banking system.  
Turkey Starts Campaign to Silence Armenian Genocide Claims:

"Hurriyet" reports that Turkey is preparing a public campaign to silence claims of an `Armenian genocide.' In a program that aired on yesterday's "CNN-Turk," the chairman of Armenian Research at the Turkish History Institute, Professor Hikmet Ozdemir, announced the campaign and said that Turkey has enough evidence in hand to prove that the deaths of Armenians in 1915 were not part of `a massacre,' but the result of fighting related to World War I.

Turkey Shows No Respect Tsunami Victims: "Sabah" notes on its front page that while European countries stopped for three minutes yesterday in memory of the tsunami victims, Turkey did not join the memorial ceremony. "Hurriyet" also notes that Turkey had failed to demonstrate the necessary sensitivity in this issue, and claims that private pledges of assistance from Turks are running far behind those in other countries. Some commentators continue to criticize the US response to the disaster. Many who had previously argued that the US had been `stingy' in allocating assistance funds now claim that the US assistance effort is a propaganda effort aimed at improving the US image in the Islamic world. Several papers report that PM Erdogan is considering a visit to the devastated region following his upcoming travel to Moscow.

Turmoil Continues in CHP: All papers report that divisions within the opposition CHP and disagreements among party members are intensifying. "Radikal" speculates that CHP leader Deniz Baykal may not be able to weather the political storm this time. Many papers speculate that CHP deputies who are opposed to Baykal but cannot support his chief rival, Mustafa Sarigul, are pushing for a compromise that would enable a caretaker party leader, perhaps Zulfi Livaneli, to take over the party until the next regular party convention.

Yahya Murat Demirel to be Extradited From Bulgaria: All papers report that Yahya Murat Demirel, nephew of former Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and former owner of the failed Egebank, will be extradited by a Bulgarian court to Turkey to stand trial on embezzlement and corruption charges. Demirel and his wife, reportedly a US citizen, had traveled to Bulgaria in a fishing boat on New Year's Eve in violation of an international travel ban placed on him by Turkish authorities. A report in "Hurriyet" suggests that Demirel's wife, Aysenur Esener Demirel, may have also violated US law by entering the United States without declaring the more than 10,000 dollars in cash that she had been carrying.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION:

- ?      Tsunami Relief
- ?      Iraq
- ?      Middle East

"Tsunami Politics" Sami Kohen observed in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (1/6): "Despite the ongoing extraordinary efforts of the international community to help the tsunami victims, there are some developments that have shown a certain lack of sensitivity. Saudi Arabia, despite its annual oil revenues of 80 billion dollars, has pledged just 10 million dollars in assistance. The UAE is contributing only 2 million dollars. It is really hard to understand why these countries are so stingy, especially when the disaster area includes Indonesia, a country with the largest Muslim population in the world. On the other hand, those who are assisting are not acting very graciously either. In some cases, political or economic motives have prevailed over humanitarian factors. . . The US and some other Western countries have started to compete with each other to lead the relief program. Their efforts are being adjusted in order to create a positive image in the region and to increase their political influence. The US, for instance, has already launched a public relations campaign by sending aircraft carriers, helicopters, and relief teams to the region. Secretary Powell has added a political component to the relief effort by saying that the tsunami relief is an indication of American generosity toward the Islamic world. . The relief effort should be conducted through international organizations, particularly the United Nations. There is an urgent need to establish a rapid relief fund and a coordination mechanism within the UN."

"The Test Ahead of Iraq" Erdal Safak commented in the mass appeal "Sabah" (1/6): "Uncertainty regarding the upcoming Iraqi elections is a reason for concern both in the West and in the Islamic world. The circumstances in Iraq have created a dilemma: holding elections will be problematic, but even more problems could be seen if the elections are postponed. The election results will not fully reflect the national will unless the Sunni Arabs, who constitute the second largest

ethnic group in Iraq, reverse their decision to boycott. This scenario has the potential to increase the threat of Sunni armed resistance. The other scenario -- if the elections were to be postponed -- would serve to benefit resistance groups and Usame Bin Ladin. In short, the situation is a classic vicious circle which caused divisions even with the current Iraqi administration. Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi wants the elections to be held on time, while President Al Yawar prefers a postponement. . In any case, we believe the elections in Iraq should be held on January 30 as scheduled. Afghanistan successfully completed an election process despite threats from Bin Ladin and the Taliban. Iraq should follow the same example and pass this test."

"The Karzai of Palestine"

Ibrahim Karagul argued in the Islamist-opinion maker "Yeni Safak" (1/6): "Afghanistan is now under the control of US forces. Iraq is under a US occupation. Palestine is under a US-supported Israeli occupation. Both Afghanistan and Iraq were occupied with the same pretext - to bring democracy. . The elections in Afghanistan helped to legitimize the occupation, and the current administration - the 'Karzai model' - is acting on behalf of the CIA. The occupation of Iraq will also be legitimized through the elections on January 30. . Unfortunately, the current situation in Palestine is similar to that in Iraq and Afghanistan. The change of regime in Palestine is underway, with growing efforts to create a new political class and a new government elite. The ongoing process is shaped by Israeli and US interests rather than the will of the Palestinian people. In Iraq and Afghanistan, this process was disguised as the "war on terrorism," but in Palestine it is being done to `further the peace process.' . The United States, the EU, Israel, and even some Arab countries are strongly lobbying for Mahmud Abbas. Why Abbas? The answer -- that he is being supported `in the name of peace' - seems far-fetched. They are intervening in Palestine in the same way they did in Afghanistan and Iraq."

EDELMAN